

Pierinæ with 43 species, and in this subfamily we would call attention to the three plates devoted to the remarkable and most interesting genus *Dismorphia*, exhibiting very strikingly the extraordinary differences (mostly traceable to mimetism in various directions) presented by no fewer than 16 species. Of the Satyrinæ 33 species are given, belonging chiefly to the genera *Mycalopsis* and *Pedaliodes*. Some very fine Nymphalinæ are figured, notably several rare species of *Mynes*, of which *M. Websteri* from New Guinea presents an underside of quite isolated character, while that of *M. cottonis* from New Britain is curiously imitative of the underside shown by a section of the Pierine genus *Delias*. The Morphinæ are represented by as many as nine species of the singular genus *Tenaris*, mostly natives of New Guinea.

We notice the announcement of a change as regards the issue of future parts of this valuable work, viz. that, instead of the regular quarterly publication of a part containing three plates, the parts will be published at such intervals as may be found convenient, the number of plates varying, and the price of each part being regulated accordingly. We may add, however, that, notwithstanding this announcement, there has been but little alteration either in the dates of issue or in the number of plates in each part as yet published in the third volume, which is being continued by Mr. Grose-Smith without the cooperation of Mr. Kirby. R. T.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

April 20th, 1898.—W. Whitaker, B.A., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

‘*Petalocrinus*.’ By F. A. Bather, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.

Certain curious fan-like objects, obviously echinodermal, have for a long time been preserved in the Riks-Museum at Stockholm, but their significance was first definitely ascertained when similar fossils were found in Iowa, and brought to England by Mrs. Davidson. The latter were described by Mr. Stuart Weller in a paper entitled ‘*Petalocrinus mirabilis* (n. sp.), and a New American Fauna;’ and the former, with fresh material obtained by Mr. Weller from various American localities, are the subject of the present communication.

The Silurian crinoid genus *Petalocrinus*, Weller, is discussed, on the evidence of all the original material from Iowa and of the further material above mentioned. The replacement of the original

material of the Iowan fossils by silica has taken place only in certain parts, forming a number of siliceous boxes, as it were, which are either hollow or more or less filled with chalcedony or crypto-crystalline silica. They are therefore neither casts nor impressions, and details of structure are frequently destroyed.

Petalocrinus is shown to have a dicyclic base—not monocyclic, as originally described. The structure of the tegmen is shown to be that of the Cyathocrinoidea. The arm-fans characteristic of the genus are proved to have been formed by fusion of the branches of an arm of Cyathocrinid type. In them, description is given for the first time of axial canals, covering-plates, the articular facet, and various minor structures. The species *P. major*, Weller, is shown to be an *Omphyma*; but *P. mirabilis*, Weller, the genotype, is redescribed, and with it five new species—two from Iowa; three, as well as a possible mutation of one of them, from Gotland. A family Petalocrinidæ, descended from the Cyathocrinidæ, probably by way of *Arachnocrinus*, is founded for the reception of this genus.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Generic Name Thylacomys. By EDGAR R. WAITE.

SINCE revising the proofs of my article "Observations on Muridæ from Central Australia"*, I find that the name *Thylacomys* may be in jeopardy. Though not contained in the classic catalogues of Agassiz and Scudder, and therefore apparently available, it has yet made an appearance, if an accidental one, in literature.

A footnote in the 'British Museum Catalogue of Marsupialia' (pp. 221-222) reads as follows:—"Blyth (Cuv. An. K. p. 104, 1840) states that Prof. Owen had separated off 'The Philander, *Perameles lagotis*,' as a genus under the name of *Thylacomys*. I am, however, quite unable to find any distinction of the genus in Prof. Owen's papers, and therefore retain the well-known name [*Peragale*] given to the genus by Gray. Blyth's statement was, perhaps, based on a confused account of Gray's *Thylamys elegans* (= *Didelphys elegans*), a member of the group of Opossums to which the latter author applied the name of 'Philander.'"

I am unable to verify Thomas's quotation in the original (1840) edition; but in the only two editions available to me, namely 1849 (p. 104) and 1863 (p. 92), the genus is rendered *Thalacomys*, not *Thylacomys*.

Australian Museum, Sydney,
10th May, 1898.

* Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria, x. (new series) 1898, pp. 114-128.